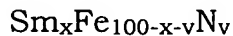


CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A flaky, isotropic SmFeN powdery magnet material prepared by roll-quenching a molten alloy and nitriding the alloy powder thus obtained to form a magnet alloy; ~~characterized in that the magnet alloy has~~ having an alloy composition of the formula, by atomic %:



wherein ~~$7 \leq x \leq 12$~~ $7.1 < x \leq 12$ and $0.5 \leq v \leq 20$; ~~that the a TbCu₇ crystal structure is TbCu₇ type; and that the flakes with a thickness of the flakes is 10-40μm.~~

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A powdery magnet material according to [one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein up to 30 at.% of Sm is substituted with Ce.

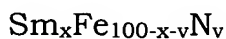
5. (currently amended) A powdery magnet material according to [one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein up to 30 at.% of Sm is substituted with a rare earth metal other than Ce.

6. (currently amended) A powdery magnet material according to [one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein up to 35 at.% of Fe is substituted with Co.

7. (currently amended) A powdery magnet material according to [one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the average crystal grain size of the material is 10 nm to 0.5 μm .

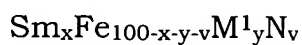
8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A process for preparing a flaky, isotropic SmFeN powdery magnet material recited in claim 1; which comprises the steps of combining and melting alloy components to form an alloy composition of the formula, by atomic %:



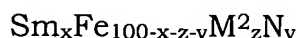
wherein ~~$7 \leq x \leq 12$~~ $7.1 < x \leq 12$ and $0.5 \leq v \leq 20$; and the crystal structure being TbCu₇ type; spilling the molten alloy on a quenching roll or rolls which rotate at a peripheral speed of 30-45 m/sec., annealing the flaky powder thus obtained in an inert atmosphere at a temperature of 500-900°C; and then nitriding the annealed powder.

10. (currently amended) A process for preparing a flaky, isotropic SmFeN powdery magnet material ~~recited in claim 2~~; which comprises the steps of combining and melting alloy components to form an alloy composition of the formula, by atomic %:



wherein M^1 is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Hf and Zr; $7 \leq x \leq 12$, $0.1 \leq y \leq 1.5$ and $0.5 \leq v \leq 20$; the crystal structure being TbCu₇ type; spilling the molten alloy on a quenching roll or rolls which rotate at a peripheral speed of 20-45 m/sec., annealing the flaky powder thus obtained in an inert atmosphere at a temperature of 500-900°C, and then nitriding the annealed powder.

11. (currently amended) A process for preparing a flaky, isotropic SmFeN powdery magnet material ~~recited in claim 3~~, which comprises the steps of combining the melting alloy components to form an alloy composition of the formula, by atomic %:



wherein M^2 is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Si, Nb, Ti, Ga, Al, Ta and C; $7 \leq x \leq 12$, $0.1 \leq z \leq 1.0$ and $0.5 \leq v \leq 20$; the crystal structure being TbCu₇ type; spilling the molten alloy on a quenching roll or rolls which rotate at a peripheral speed of 20-45 m/sec., annealing the flaky powder thus obtained in an inert atmosphere at a temperature of 500-900°C, and then nitriding the annealed powder.

12. (currently amended) A process for preparing according to [one of claims 9 to 11] claim 9, wherein the roll-quenching is carried out in argon gas atmosphere of a pressure ranging from 0.0001 Torr to 2 atms.

13. (currently amended) A process for preparing according to [one of claims 9 to 11] claim 9, wherein the roll-quenching is carried out using a quenching roll or rolls made of a metal selected from Cu, Cr-Cu alloy, or a Be-Cu alloy.

14. (currently amended) A bonded magnet made by processing the magnet powder according to [one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1 with a binder to the shape of a magnet.

15. (added) A process for preparing according to claim 10, wherein the roll-quenching is carried out in argon gas atmosphere of a pressure ranging from 0.0001 Torr to 2 atms.

16. (added) A process for preparing according to claim 11, wherein the roll-quenching is carried out in argon gas atmosphere of a pressure ranging from 0.0001 Torr to 2 atms.

17. (added) A process for preparing according to claim 10, wherein the roll-quenching is carried out using a quenching roll or rolls made of a metal selected from Cu, Cr-Cu alloy or Be-Cu alloy.

19. (added) A process for preparing according to claim 11, wherein the roll-quenching is carried out using a quenching roll or rolls made of a metal selected from Cu, Cr-Cu alloy or Be-Cu alloy.